

Toll-free issue in Vermont court

Press-Republican

By STEVE MANOR
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Northern Clinton Bureau
ROUSES POINT — A new, toll-free Lake Champlain Bridge may depend largely on Vermont state Senator Thomas Crowley and his Senate Transportation Committee.

That's what political observers are saying in the Green Mountain State, but their counterparts in the Empire State are saying Crowley supported the toll-free bridge proposal in the past and he's a man of his word.

Vermont Gov. Richard Snelling has put up to \$2.5 million in bonding for the new bridge in the state's capital budget. The bonding however is contingent on New York State kicking in its \$2.5 million in bonding.

Rouses Point-Champlain Chamber of Commerce spokesman Mark L. Barie said Friday he has received assurances from New York State Sen. Ronald Stafford (P-Plattsburgh) that New York is ready to go.

"Here's what Senator Stafford said, 'We're on target. We'll be ready when they are. We've got no problem,'" Barie noted.

"Ron Stafford has done all of his homework and if he says New York State is ready to go, New York State is ready to go," Barie added.

The local Chamber of Commerce got involved with the new bridge

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project when the board of directors, nearly two years ago, voted to wage a campaign to make the new replacement bridge between Rouses Point and Alburt, Vt., whose construction could start in 1985 and take two years to complete, a toll-free bridge.

While the local chamber is at work on this side of the lake, its counterpart in Vermont — the Lake Champlain Islands Chamber of Commerce — has been at work on the other side.

The chambers are confident that Snelling bonding proposal will make it by the Vermont state House of Representatives without a hitch, but it could get snagged in the Vermont state Senate.

Once in the Senate, it will eventually end up in Sen. Crowley's Transportation Committee — where it could die or get a boost onto the Senate floor.

"Lake Champlain Islands Chamber of Commerce President

Doug Tudhope has written Senator Crowley on behalf of his chamber. He has asked for Crowley's support of the governor's bonding proposal for a toll-free bridge. Crowley has not yet replied to Tudhope's letter," Barie said.

"From my perspective, all eyes are on Senator Crowley. He can get this through the Vermont Senate. Last year, Senator Crowley not only supported the idea of a toll-free bridge but supported state financing to do it. He challenged if Ron Stafford could do the same," Barie said.

"The answer is yes. Ron Stafford and New York State are ready — the rest is up to Tom Crowley. I'm confident Tom Crowley will do the job. He's a good man and he can be taken at his word," the chamber spokesman added.

Here's one way the new estimated \$20-million bridge would be paid for: the federal government will pay 80 percent and the Lake Champlain Bridge Commission

comes up with the remaining 20 percent.

The commission, the chamber says, is looking into the issuance of up to \$4.5 million in revenue bonds to pay for its 20-percent share. This bond debt, maintenance and bridge operating expense would have to come from toll revenues.

The alternative, which is what the two chambers wants, is:

Each state to contribute an equal 10-percent share of the bridge cost rather than the bridge commission coming up with the full 20 percent.

This would mean each state coming up with \$2.5 million in bonding.

"Having each state come up with the bonding is the most cost efficient thing to do. The two states can bond it cheaper than the bridge commission. That's a fact," Barie says.

One other thing that has to be worked out is maintenance of the new bridge.

"The major thing is state funding for the building of the new bridge. The next step is getting each state to maintain its own half," Barie said.

"It can only be toll-free if the states agree to take over maintenance after it is built. The truth of the matter is the two states can also maintain the bridge cheaper than the bridge commission," the chamber spokesman said.

When there's engineering work that needs to be done, the bridge commission has to go out and hire a consulting engineer. The two states already have these engineers on their highway department payroll. When there's maintenance work to be done, the bridge commission has to call in contractors. The states already have maintenance people on the payroll," he added.

Gas now cheaper in Rouses Point

By STEVE MANOR
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Northern Clinton Bureau
CHAMPLAIN — Gas prices are seven to four cents a gallon cheaper in Rouses Point than Champlain, breaking a long-standing tradition.

Gas prices at Champlain gas stations had traditionally been lower, but that has changed.

Some say the Champlain stations are keeping their prices up to cash in on the Canadian motorists who are coming down to buy their gas in the U.S. where it is cheaper. Champlain stations are adjacent to Route 87, the route most Canadian motorists use when coming into the

U.S.

The two gas stations surveyed in Champlain showed their posted, full-service gas prices (per gallon) were pretty evenly matched.

Tedford's Mobil station (now independently owned and no longer dealing in Exxon Gas) is selling regular at \$1.349 and unleaded at \$1.419. The station gives a four-cents-a-gallon discount on all cash purchases so that brings the price down to \$1.309 for regular and \$1.379 on unleaded.

Jarvis's Mobile station is selling regular at \$1.329 (two cents more than Tedford's) and unleaded at \$1.379 (the same price as Tedford's).

The two gas stations in Rouses Point showed their posted, full-service gas prices (per gallon) were six to seven cents per gallon cheaper on unleaded and three to four cents a gallon cheaper on regular than the Champlain stations.

Racine's Mobil, the station with the cheapest posted prices of all four stations surveyed, listed regular at \$1.269 and unleaded at \$1.309.

Gaine's Chevron, the station with the next cheapest posted prices and one cent per gallon higher than Racine, listed regular at \$1.279 and unleaded at \$1.319.

Photo contest deadline Wednesday

ROUSES POINT — Local photographers have until Feb. 1 to enter the 1984 Winter Carnival photography contest.

Entries cannot be mailed but must be hand delivered to the Professional at 123 Lake St. in Rouses Point on Tuesday, Jan. 31, or Wednesday, Feb. 1.

They can only be delivered from 3 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. on both of those days.

Those entering the contest, according to Chairman Greg Favreau, must be a resident of the Northern

Tier of Clinton County (Plattsburgh and north) to enter the combination contest and exhibition.

Each contestant may submit up to three photographs which must be their own original works.

They must be no smaller than 5-by-7 inches nor larger than 16-by-20 inches.

Photographs maybe black-and-white or color, but they must all be matted with firm backing and hanger tab suitable for display. No framed, glass or plastic-bound

photographs will be accepted.

Contestants must affix a 2-by-3 inch card on the back of each entry listing the title of the work, the location the photograph was taken, the exhibitor's name and address.

Winners will receive cash prizes of \$15 for first place, \$10 for second place and \$5 for third place. Entries will be put on display at the Key Bank offices in Champlain and Rouses Point and the Champlain Valley Federal Savings and Loan Association office in Champlain.

Northern Tier happenings

Pool hours shortened

CHAMPLAIN — Northeastern Clinton Central School's evening pool schedule has been shortened this month due to other school activities and low participation.

Due to lack of interest, adult-only swimming has been limited to one hour on Wednesday nights, Tuesdays and family nights and Wednesdays and Thursdays are open swimming nights from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The February schedule is as follows: Feb. 1st, 2nd, 7th, 22nd, 23rd and 29th.

Benefit game tonight

ELLENBURG CORNERS — The Roger Senecal Fund benefit basketball game between the New York State Police and inmates of Altona Correctional Facility will be played tonight at Northern Adirondack Central School.

The police-inmate game, sponsored by the Ellenburg Kiwanis Club, is the main attraction in a double-header.

The Ellenburg Kiwanis Club members will take on the Chateaugay Rotary Club members in an exhibition game at 6:30 p.m. The police-inmate game will be played at 7:30 p.m.

All proceeds from the game will go to the fund set up by the Non-Commissioned Officers Association of Plattsburgh to finance a liver transplant operation for nine-year-old Roger Senecal of Treadwells Mills.

Students collect \$400

ELLENBURG DEPOT — Northern Adirondack Central School students under the coordination of the 4th-grade teachers recently conducted a local campaign to Save Miss Liberty.

The teachers and students made posters, collection cans and charts and did studies in the classroom about Miss Liberty. The project was kicked off by an assembly presented by the 4th-grade students and teachers which included plays and musical numbers. The students collected a total of \$400 which was sent to the National Office of the Save Miss Liberty campaign.

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